July 8, 2010 **Morning Highlights** 11:00 a.m.

# 50

Forecasted temperatures for 7/9/2010

### Contacts

Fire Information: (907) 356-5511

Report Fires: Call 911 or (800) 237-3633

### **WEATHER**

High pressure aloft has built in over Interior Alaska, from Canada to the Seward Peninsula. This is going to create a warming and drying trend for the rest of the week across the northern half of the state. Drying will be aided today by southwesterly winds gusting to 25 mph along the south side of the Brooks Range, and by southerly winds gusting to similar speeds through the passes of the eastern Alaska Range. Stability across the Interior has increased and the thermal trough is very weak, so expect only some isolated thunderstorms today and tomorrow, with a wide area of potential from the west coast to the ALCAN border. On Thursday, stability and moisture levels will decrease, so thunderstorm activity will begin to ramp up. This trend will continue through Friday.

### **FIRES IN ALASKA**

Three new fires were reported to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) Wednesday. Two lightning-caused fires were detected by a surveillance flight and are located 45 miles north of Ambler. Both fires are 4 acres in size and will be monitored. The Delta Area Forestry dispatched an engine to a structure fire that escaped into the wildlands. Fire personnel easily contained the spread of the fire and will be patrol the fire today.

According to AICC, 101 fires are active statewide. So far this year, 547 fires have burned 971,479 acres statewide. Several fires are staffed in the northern half of Alaska. Information about each fire is at: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf. Some of the fires of note include:

Jade Mountains (5.5 NE of Noatak) 152 acres, 48 personnel: The fire was smoldering with some internal smokes today. Personnel continued to mop-up into the interior of the fire.

Eli River (11 miles E of Noatak Village) 14,000 acres, 29 personnel: Scoopers 267 and 262 were utilized on the north end of the fire today. Two medium and one light helicopter assisted in the operations. The acreage increase is due to more accurate mapping and improved visibility.

Louie Creek Fire (6.5 miles SW of Huslia) 14,176 Acres, 137 personnel: Broken cloud cover and high winds caused rapid drying of fuels on all portions of the fire and, therefore, increased the fire activity. Crews continue Native Allotment protection and securing the western firelines. Personnel began to pull pumps and hoses from the northern firelines in places they are no longer needed. Numerous Native Allotments, structures and communications facilities are threatened. For more information, visit: <a href="http://inciweb.org/incident/2007/">http://inciweb.org/incident/2007/</a>

**Fiasco Lake (7 miles NW of Circle) 800 acres, 114 personnel:** Warm drier weather with brisk winds did not increase activity. Crews made good progress mopping up and expect to proceed further into the interior of the fire where areas of smoldering heat remain.

Pat Creek Fire (12 miles NE of Stevens Village) 11,806 acres, 261 personnel: Due to the warmer weather fire behavior increased along the east perimeter. Firefighters will begin fire line construction along the eastern perimeter on today and crews will continue to secure fire line along the northern and southern fire perimeters. For photos and maps of this fire please visit <a href="http://inciweb.org/incident/2004/">http://inciweb.org/incident/2004/</a>.

Willow Creek Fire (10 miles SW of Fairbanks) 2,154 acres, unstaffed: The fire continues smoldering on the western and southern edges causing small plumes of smoke. The fire is being flown and observed regularly by fire personnel. For additional information, call fire information at 907-356-5511 or visit <a href="http://inciweb.org/incident/2000/">http://inciweb.org/incident/2000/</a>.

### **AVIATION AWARENESS**

There are currently 2 Temporary Flight Restrictions over fires in Alaska. Pilots should check NOTAMS (<a href="http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html">http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html</a>), and keep airspace safe by staying at least 7 nautical miles away from ALL wildland fires as there may be fire aircraft working in the area.

## **WILDLAND FIRE SMOKE**

Learn more about wildland fire smoke and air quality from the following websites:

- AK Department of Environmental Conservation smoke information: http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/smokemain.htm
- AK Department of Environmental Conservation Air Quality Advisories/Alerts: http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/aq\_sr.htm
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Smoke Visibility/Air Quality: <a href="http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/">http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/</a> and <a href="http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/Docs/ParticulateLevels.pdf">http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/Docs/ParticulateLevels.pdf</a>

# **ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <a href="http://fire.ak.blm.gov/">http://fire.ak.blm.gov/</a>
  - o Map of Current Fires: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php
  - o Situation Report: <a href="http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf">http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf</a>
  - o National Fire Situation: http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf
  - o Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK: <a href="http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf">http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf</a>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (**Burn Permit** Info): http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group- Education and Reference Materials: http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php

- Search for "Rural Alaska Fire Prevention Video" www.youtube.com
- Protect your home and property!: <a href="http://firewise.org/">http://firewise.org/</a> and <a href="http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf">http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf</a>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns): http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info): (907) 451-2240, http://511.alaska.gov/
- National Parks Service: http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm
  - o Denali: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/dena/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm">http://www.nps.gov/dena/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm</a>
  - o Yukon-Charley: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/yuch/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm">http://www.nps.gov/yuch/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm</a>
  - o Gates of the Arctic: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/gaar/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm">http://www.nps.gov/gaar/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm</a>
  - o Noatak National Preserve: <a href="http://www.nps.gov/noat/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm">http://www.nps.gov/noat/parkmgmt/currentfireinfo.htm</a>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <a href="http://www.fws.gov/fire/">http://www.fws.gov/fire/</a>
- USDA Forest Service: <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/">http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/</a>
- Anchorage Fire Department: <u>www.muni.org/fire</u>
- National Weather Service: <a href="http://www.nws.noaa.gov/">http://www.nws.noaa.gov/</a>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html
- Federal Aviation Administration: <a href="http://www.faa.gov/">http://www.faa.gov/</a>
- InciWeb http://www.inciweb.org/

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Alaska Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service.